

## HEIRS OF JOSEPH TRAVERSIE.

[To accompany Bill H. R. No. 258.]

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MARCH 2, 1860.

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Mr. FERRY, from the Committee on Revolutionary Claims, made the following

### REPORT.

*The Committee on Revolutionary Claims, to whom was referred the petition of the heirs of Joseph Traversie, a captain in General Hazen's regiment, report:*

That this claim was favorably reported on the 15th day of February, 1859. That report, with the evidence, has been re-examined; and your committee, concurring entirely with that report, adopt it, and report a bill in all respects the same as the one then reported.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, *February 15, 1859.*

Mr. CLAWSON, from the Committee on Revolutionary Claims, made the following report:

*The Committee on Revolutionary Claims, to whom was referred the petition of the heirs of Captain Joseph Traversie, an officer in the revolutionary war, praying to be paid the half-pay for life promised by certain resolves of Congress, having had the same under careful consideration, report:*

That it appears from the testimony of John Montey, who is certified to be a credible person, now living, and a United States pensioner for services in the revolutionary war, that he, himself, was a private in Colonel Hazen's regiment, and served therein to the close of the war; that he was well acquainted with Joseph Traversie, a captain in said Colonel Hazen's regiment, from the time the regiment retreated from Canada until the close of the war, and from the close of the war until his death, which occurred at Chazy, in the State of New York, in the year eighteen hundred and eight; that said Traversie was a captain in the continental line, appointed by Congress; and that he continued in said war from the commencement until the end, and was

employed much of his time as a spy in Canada, under his commission of captain.

The evidence of this witness is strongly corroborated by the following records :

“ IN CONGRESS, *November 5, 1776.*

“ *Resolved*, That one hundred dollars be advanced to the said Joseph Traversie, to be accounted for by him on the settlement of his accounts.”—(See Journals of Cong., November 5, 1776, vol. 1, p. 538.)

“ IN CONGRESS, *November 10, 1780.*

“ *Resolved*, That the accounts of Captain Traversie, for services done for the United States, by order of Major General Gates, be paid, and that the Board of Treasury liquidate his accounts ; and that a warrant issue on the Treasurer for the balance which shall be found due to him.”—(See Journals of Cong., November 10, 1780, vol. 3, p. 546.)

It appears that an account was opened with Captain Joseph Traversie, as a captain in the service of the United States, on the books of the Treasury Department, and the debit date of his account is November, 1778 ; and there is no date to the credit side, and the books do not show the first and last of his service. The books do not show that he was settled with for his commutation, or that he was entitled thereto. He is shown to have been an officer in Colonel Hazen's regiment, which was composed mostly of Canadians, who enlisted in our service in Canada, and retreated with our army from Canada in 1776. In the reduction of the army in 1780, Congress, on the 3d of October, 1780, resolved to continue Hazen's officers and men on the establishment.—(See Journals of Cong., vol. 3, p. 533.) But on the 8th of August, 1782, Captain Traversie was reduced to an allowance of ten dollars per month, until the further order of Congress, and the Superintendent of Finance ordered to pay him in full for his services and support since the 15th day of November, 1780.—(See Journals of Cong., vol. 4, p. 59.)

It appears from the New York State Balloting Book, at page 188, that said Traversie is inscribed on the return made by General Hazen and Colonel James Livingston, and that he was entitled to land from said State for military services in the list of Canadian and Nova Scotia refugees, with the last that were ballotted to them, under the direction of the commissioners of the land office, set opposite to their respective names.

For these services a claim is made for the half-pay for life promised by the resolves of Congress of October 21, 1780, and March 8, 1785. These resolves are as follows :

“ RESOLUTION.—IN CONGRESS, *October 21, 1780.*

“ *Resolved*, That the officers who shall continue in the service to the end of the war shall also be entitled to half-pay during life, to commence from the time of their reductions.”

“RESOLUTION.—IN CONGRESS, *March 8, 1785.*

“*Resolved*, That the officers who retired under the resolve of the 31st of December, 1781, are equally entitled to the half-pay or commutation with those officers who retired under the resolves of the 3d and 21st of October, 1780.”

It is clear, therefore, that this claim is sustained under the last mentioned resolve, and is similar in its character to those cases reported favorably by this committee, and that have heretofore been allowed in a large number of cases by special acts of Congress. Your committee therefore report a bill, and ask its passage.

RESOLUTION.—In Congress, May 8, 1785.

Resolved, That the officers who retired under the resolve of the 31st of December, 1781, are equally entitled to the half-pay or compensation with those officers who retired under the resolve of the 3d and 31st of October, 1780.

It is clear, therefore, that this claim is sustained under the last mentioned resolve, and is similar in its character to those cases reported favorably by this committee, and that have heretofore been allowed in a large number of cases by special acts of Congress. Your committee, therefore, report a bill, and ask its passage.